

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3072

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATOMIN: RESTRUCTURING OF FORMAT

REF: USNATO 2988

HEREWITH THE TEXT OF PO/74/74, THE ACTING SYG'S NOTE ON POSSIBLE RESTRUCTURING OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DEBATES. THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH IS THE BASIS FOR JUNE 5 NAC DISCUSSION THIS SUBJECT, IS ABOUT AS FAVORABLE TOWARD US VIEWS AS WE CAN EXPECT. MISSION SUGGESTS WE BE INSTRUCTED TO AGREE TO INCLUSION OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS IN THE PRIVATE MEETING (BUT NOT A FOURTH OFFICIAL), PROVIDED COUNCIL ACCEPTS REST OF PACKAGE WHICH INCLUDED US PREFERENCES ON TIMING AND FORMAT OF BOTH PRIVATE AND PLENARY SESSIONS. REQUEST GUIDANCE.

BEGIN TEXT

POSSIBLE RESTRUCTURING OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DEBATES

THE FORM OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS HAS BEEN GIVEN FURTHER CONSIDERATION SINCE THE CIRCULATION OF PO/74/27 OF CONFIDENTIAL

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2 MARCH. WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE STAGE WHERE WE HAVE TO DECIDE CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUESTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMING MEETING IN OTTAWA.

2. FIRST THERE IS THE QUESTION OF A PRIVATE MEETING.
I BELIEVE THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT IN THE COUNCIL ON THE
USEFULNESS OF HOLDING SUCH A MEETING, AND WE HAVE TO DECIDE
ON SEVERAL POINTS WHICH ARISE:

(A) TIMING: IN THE LIGHT OF THE LAST EXPERIENCE,
AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE COUNCIL, I CONTINUE
TO BE OF THE OPINION THAT, IF WE WANT TO HAVE
FRUITFUL DISCUSSION AT SUCH A MEETING, THEN WE
SHOULD HAVE IT AT THE BEGINNING. THIS WOULD
ENABLE THE MINISTERS TO RAISE THEIR MAIN POINTS
OF CONCERN RIGHT AWAY, AND HELP TO SET THE
BACKGROUND FOR THE SPECIFIC AGENDA ITEMS TO
BE TAKEN UP LATER IN THE PLENARY SESSION.

(B) ATTENDANCE: I RECOMMEND THAT THE MINISTERS SHOULD
BE SUPPORTED BY THEIR AMBASSADORS AND POLITICAL
DIRECTORS. PARTICIPATION OF THE POLITICAL
DIRECTORS, IN MY OPINION, IS ONLY CONSISTENT
WITH OUR DESIRE TO INVOLVE THEM MORE IN THE WORK
OF THE COUNCIL. I THINK IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
ALSO WHETHER DELEGATIONS SO DESIRING WOULD BE
PERMITTED ONE OTHER OFFICIAL AS A RECORD TAKER;

(C) AGENDA FOR A PRIVATE MEETING: I THINK THAT IT WOULD
BE USEFUL TO HAVE AS A FORM OF AGENDA A GENERAL
UNDERSTANDING OF THE COURSE OUR DISCUSSIONS WOULD TAKE.
I SUGGEST THAT THE ANNUAL POLITICAL APPRAISAL CAN
SERVE AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR DISCUSSION SINCE
IT WILL HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS WHICH
ARE OF COMMON INTEREST. I BELIEVE THERE WOULD ALSO
BE GREAT INTEREST AMONG MINISTERS IN HEARING COMMENTS
THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE MIGHT WISH TO MAKE ON
SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT EVENTS, E.G. THE
COMING VISIT OF PRESIDENT NIXON TO MOSCOW. CERTAIN
SPECIFIC INTER-ALLIANCE PROBLEMS MIGHT ALSO BEST BE
TAKEN UP IN THE MORE RESTRICTED ATMOSPHERE OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PRIVATE MEETING.

3. SECONDLY, THERE IS THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE PLENARY
SESSION SHOULD INCLUDE GENERAL STATEMENTS, AND IF SO, AT WHAT
POINT. MY VIEW REMAINS THAT WE SHOULD TRY TO KEEP SUCH GENERAL
STATEMENTS TO A MINIMUM AND, SO FAR AS POSSIBLE, OPEN THE PLENARY
SESSION BY GOING STRAIGHT TO THE FIRST AGENDA ITEM. THE HOLDING
OF A PRIVATE MEETING BEFORE THE PLENARY SESSION COULD PROVE
HELPFUL IN THIS RESPECT, SINCE SOME OF THE DISCUSSION AT THE
PRIVATE MEETING WOULD BE LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN OF THE CHARACTER
OF A GENERAL DEBATE. IF ANY MINISTER DOES WISH TO MAKE A GENERAL
STATEMENT IN THE PLENARY SESSION, IT WOULD GREATLY HELP IN THE
OVERALL ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING IF THIS COULD BE MADE KNOWN

IN ADVANCE WITH AN INDICATION OF AT WHAT POINT IN THE PROCEEDINGS
THE MINISTER WOULD WISH TO SPEAK. THE POSSIBILITY OF CIRCULATING
IN ADVANCE SUCH STATEMENTS SHOULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

4. FINALLY, THERE REMAINS THE QUESTION OF THE AGENDA
FOR THE PLENARY SESSION. THE COUNCIL ALREADY HAS PROPOSALS
BEFORE IT IN PO/74/67(REVISED) OF 31 ST MAY 1974. IT WILL BE
NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL TO TAKE UP AGAIN THAT DOCUMENT AT THE
SAME TIME AS IT CONSIDERS THE MATTERS DEALT WITH IN THIS PO.
I SUGGEST THIS BE AT THE COUNCIL MEEING OF 5TH JUNE.
END TEXT. MCAULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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